

- **Manufacturing shipments slip 2.6% in April**
- **New vehicle sales down 1.7% in April**
- **Consolidated provincial/local government sector surplus drops to \$43 million in 2005/06**

The Economy

- **Shipments of goods produced by British Columbia manufacturers slipped (-2.6%, *seasonally adjusted*) in April, following a modest gain (+1.6%) in March.** Manufacturers of non-durable goods saw notable declines (-6.6%) in the value of shipments, mostly due to weakness in the food (-7.1%) and paper (-14.8%) industries. Driven by an increase in the wood products industry (+2.4%), durable goods managed to inch up (+0.2%) despite slips in other large manufacturing sectors such as fabricated metals (-15.6%) and non-metallic minerals (-1.3%).

Saskatchewan (+5.2%), Manitoba (+1.0%) and Nova Scotia (+0.6%) were the only provinces where shipments increased in April. The Canadian total was down 1.5% with Newfoundland & Labrador posting the largest percentage decline (-16.5%). The national decrease in shipments was largely a result of a substantial drop in the production of aerospace products and parts. Excluding the aerospace industry, shipments were down a mere 0.4%. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

- **The number of new vehicles driven off car lots in BC and the territories declined 1.7% (*seasonally adjusted*) in April after relatively strong growth in March (+4.7%).** Nationally, new motor vehicle sales edged down (-0.7%), reflecting slips in the number of sales in seven provinces. Newfoundland & Labrador (+4.8%), Quebec (+0.3%) and Alberta (+0.1%) were the only provinces to post increases in April.

Data Source: Statistics Canada

- **Sales of motor vehicle fuel in the province slipped (-1.1%) in 2005, possibly as a result of soaring prices at the pump.** BC drivers consumed an estimated 4.7 billion litres of gasoline, down from nearly 4.8 billion litres in 2004.

British Columbia motorists accounted for 11.8% of Canada's fuel consumption last year while drivers in Alberta accounted for 12.9%. Drivers in the two most populated provinces in the country, Ontario (15.6 billion litres) and Quebec (8.4 billion litres), accounted for a combined 60% of national consumption. The total consumption of motor fuel in Canada declined by 1.4% in 2005, the first decline since 1994, excluding a slight drop (-0.1%) in 2001 resulting from a disruption of the transportation industry due to the September 11th terrorist attacks. Alberta (+0.6%) and PEI (+4.1%) were the only provinces to record a rise in gross motor vehicle fuel sales last year. *Data Source: Statistics Canada*

Public Sector

- **During the 2005/06 fiscal year, consolidated provincial/local government sector revenues rose 5.3% in BC, the fourth highest growth among the provinces.** Taxes, investment income, health insurance premiums and other own-source revenues (which account for about 86% of total revenues) increased 4.8%. Income tax revenues rose 14.1%, while property and related taxes were up 7.0%. Specific purpose transfers from the federal government also contributed to the revenue growth, jumping 32.8%. However, general purpose transfers (equalization payments, the Canada Health and Social Transfer, and other transfers from the federal government sector) were 19.5% lower than in the 2004/05 fiscal year. Nationally, total revenues increased 6.5%.

Expenditures in the province continued to rise (+6.2%) as spending on social services (+4.7%) health care (+5.8%) and education (+5.9%) was boosted. Spending was up in every province, increasing 5.2% overall.

The overall surplus in BC fell to \$43 million from \$372 million in the previous year. Alberta

Did you know...

About 20% of BC's coastal land area has been disturbed by human activity (logging, agriculture & urbanization) and natural events (fire & insect outbreaks). *Source: Ministry of Environment*

(\$7.8 billion) posted the biggest surplus, followed by Newfoundland & Labrador (\$1.9 billion).

Data Source: Statistics Canada

These statistics are based on a much broader definition of the public sector than is used in the Public Accounts. Statistics Canada's definition of the provincial/local public sector includes both provincial and local general government, as well as school boards, universities, colleges, hospitals and other public health care institutions, and government pension plans. Consolidated provincial/local data have been adjusted to remove transfers between entities within the sector in order to avoid double-counting.

Volunteering & Charity

- **Volunteers in British Columbia contributed an average of 199 hours of their time in 2004, the most in the country.** According to the latest survey on giving and volunteering, an estimated 1.6 million British Columbians volunteered through a group or organisation (a rate of 45%) and 2.7 million people donated to charity (a rate of 77%). Average annual donations in BC were \$467 in 2004, above the national average (\$400). Among the provinces, Saskatchewan had the highest volunteer rate (54%) and average donations were highest in Alberta (\$500).

Although many Canadians volunteer either time or money, charitable and other non-profit organisations rely mostly on a small group of donors for support. The top quarter of donors (those who contributed \$325 or more) in 2004 provided 82% of the value of all donations and the top quarter of volunteers (those who contributed 180 hours or more) accounted for 77% of volunteer hours contributed by the nation's citizens.

Data Source: SC Cat. #71-542-XIE

Health

- **In 2005, approximately 164,000 British Columbians (4.6% of the population) reported having been diagnosed with diabetes, slightly below the Canadian average.** Data from the 2005 Canadian Community Health Survey shows that 4.9% (1.3 million people) of Canada's population over the age of 12 has diabetes. Rates were notably higher in the eastern-most parts of the country and ranged from 6.8% in Newfoundland & Labrador to 3.9% in Alberta.

Data Source: SC Cat. #82-221-XIE

- **British Columbia had the lowest smoking rates in the country in 2005.** Less than 18% of the province's population were smokers in 2005, down from 19% in 2003 and well below the national average (22%). The health region of Richmond, BC had the lowest smoking rate in the country (12.6%). Rates across the country were highest in Nunavut (53%), Northwest Territories (36%) and Yukon (30%). Among the provinces, smoking rates were highest in Quebec (24.4%). A sharp decrease of smokers was recorded among young people aged 12 to 17, whose rate dropped from 10% in 2003 to 8% in 2005. This is especially significant to the long-term outlook, as smokers usually start smoking before the age 18, and rarely take up smoking as adults.

Data Source: SC Cat. #82-221-XIE

Aboriginal Victimization

- **Aboriginal Canadians are more likely to be victims of crime than non-Aboriginals.** In a new study, about 40% of Aboriginal participants aged 15 and over reported having been victimised at least once in the 12 month period prior to being interviewed. This proportion was well above the 28% level for non-Aboriginal people. Twenty-one percent of Aboriginal people said they had suffered violence from a previous or current spousal partner at some time between 2000 and 2004, compared to only 6% of their non-Aboriginal counterparts. Aboriginal citizens are also more likely to be accused as perpetrators of crime than non-Indigenous Canadians. However, although Aboriginal people were more than 10 times more likely to be accused of homicide, of those accused, only 20% were actually charged, compared to 46% of non-Aboriginals. *Data Source: SC: Vol.6 No.3 85-002-XIE*

The Nation

Canadian industries operated at 85.9% of full capacity over the first three months of 2006, down slightly from 86.1% at the end of 2005. Forestry & logging (up 3.9% to 87.7%) and construction (up 1.3% to 90.9%) were the only sectors to operate at a capacity rate higher than in the previous quarter.

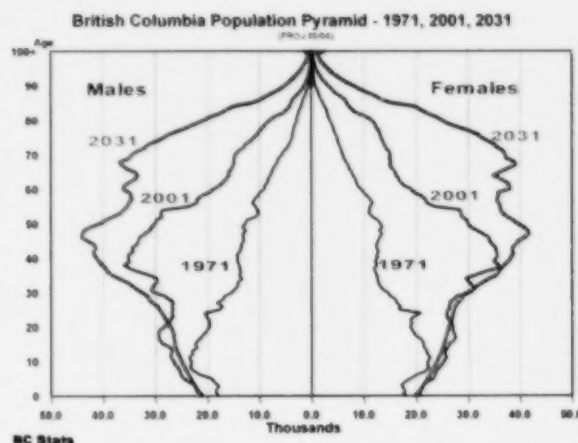
Data Source: Statistics Canada

*Infoline Issue: 06-24
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Demographic Characteristics of British Columbia's Senior Population: an Environmental Scan, Part 2

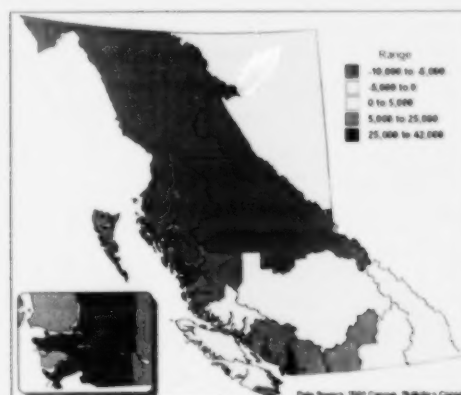
The Population Pyramid summarizes how the demographic components of deaths, births, migration and ageing impact on the population structure over time.

The 'baby-boom' is the most significant feature of the age structure of BC. This aging population bulge will have a large impact on the type, structure and location of government services for seniors.



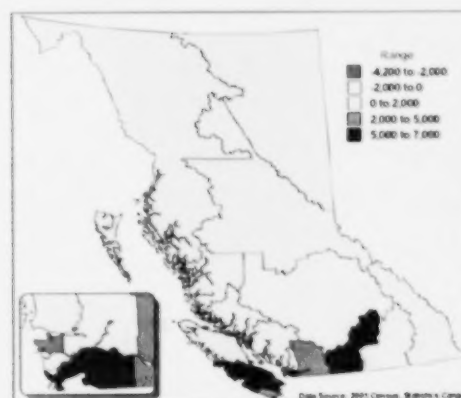
Between 1996 and 2001, migration for the whole population showed outflows from the north-west and strong inflows to the south-west.

Many people left the province for employment in other provinces between 1996 and 2001. Regions that were primarily resource dependent had the largest outflow.



Migration of the population aged 55+ was positive in the Okanagan and in the south-west, except for Vancouver

Migration of the 55+ group was positive in areas that are thought of as appealing to retirees (Okanagan, south Vancouver Island), while other regions of the province had more seniors leaving than arriving. However, within the south-west region the exception was Vancouver, where there was an outflow.



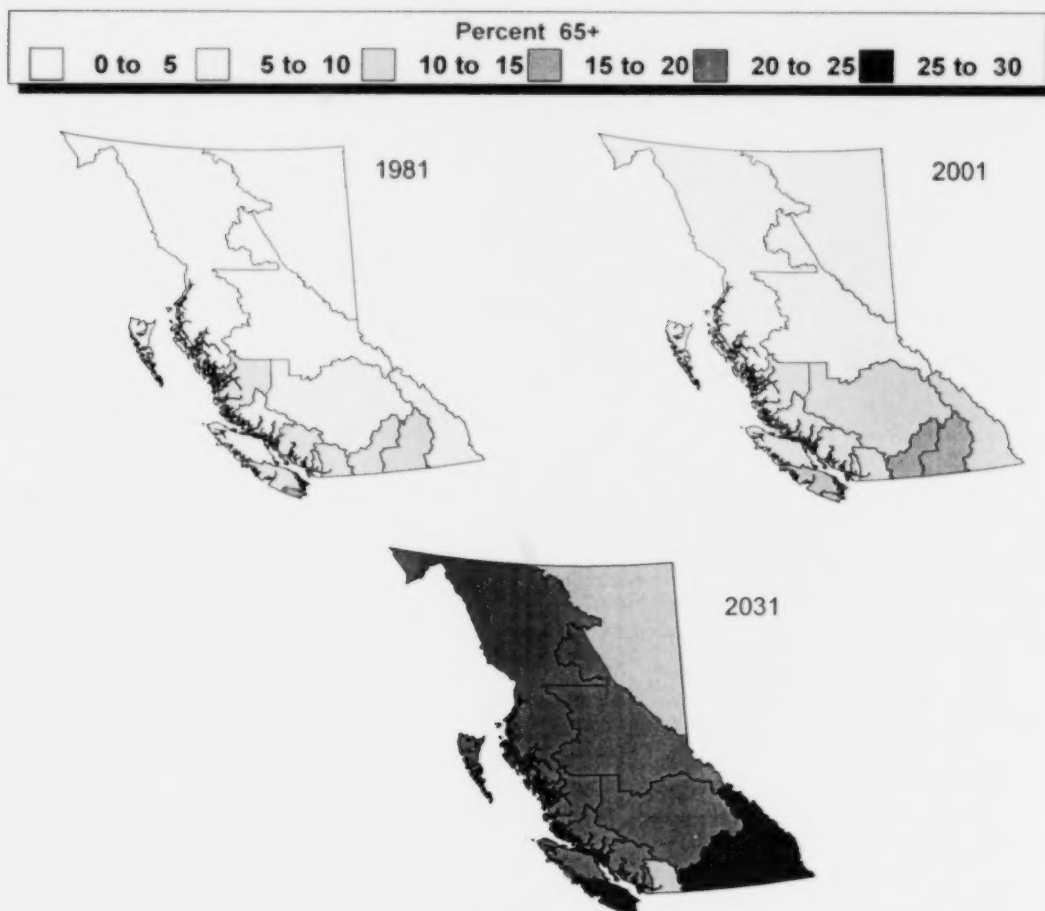
The proportion seniors make up of regional populations varies considerably

The proportion of the total population that is aged 65 and over is increasing in all regions of the province, but in some areas at a greater rate than others. This means that long term planning for many government services must take into account the changing balance of the regional representation of seniors.

Percent of Total Population that is Aged 65 and Over						
	Estimated			Projected		
	1981	2001	2004	2006	2021	2031
HSDA						
Kootenay Boundary	11.5	15.8	16.6	17.2	25.0	29.4
South Vancouver Island	16.7	17.5	17.2	17.4	24.2	28.9
East Kootenay	8.2	13.7	13.9	14.6	22.1	27.0
Richmond	7.3	11.2	11.7	12.5	21.9	26.2
Central Vancouver Island	10.6	17.3	17.8	18.2	22.9	25.8
Okanagan	14.5	19.4	19.6	19.8	22.9	25.7
North Shore/Coast Garibaldi	10.1	13.7	14.0	14.5	21.3	25.0
Thompson Cariboo	6.6	13.2	14.1	14.7	20.9	24.4
North Vancouver Island	6.4	12.4	13.5	14.0	20.1	24.1
British Columbia	10.7	13.2	13.7	14.1	19.5	23.5
Fraser South	8.8	11.6	13.2	13.8	19.3	23.2
Fraser North	10.4	10.9	11.1	11.5	17.3	22.1
Northwest	3.3	7.4	8.2	8.7	15.9	21.6
Northern Interior	3.5	8.0	8.8	9.2	16.1	20.9
Vancouver	15.0	12.3	12.2	12.4	16.1	20.3
Northeast	4.2	7.3	7.8	8.1	13.9	19.6
Fraser East	11.6	13.7	13.7	13.8	16.3	19.4

Source: BC Stats

The proportion of seniors to total population varies considerably by region



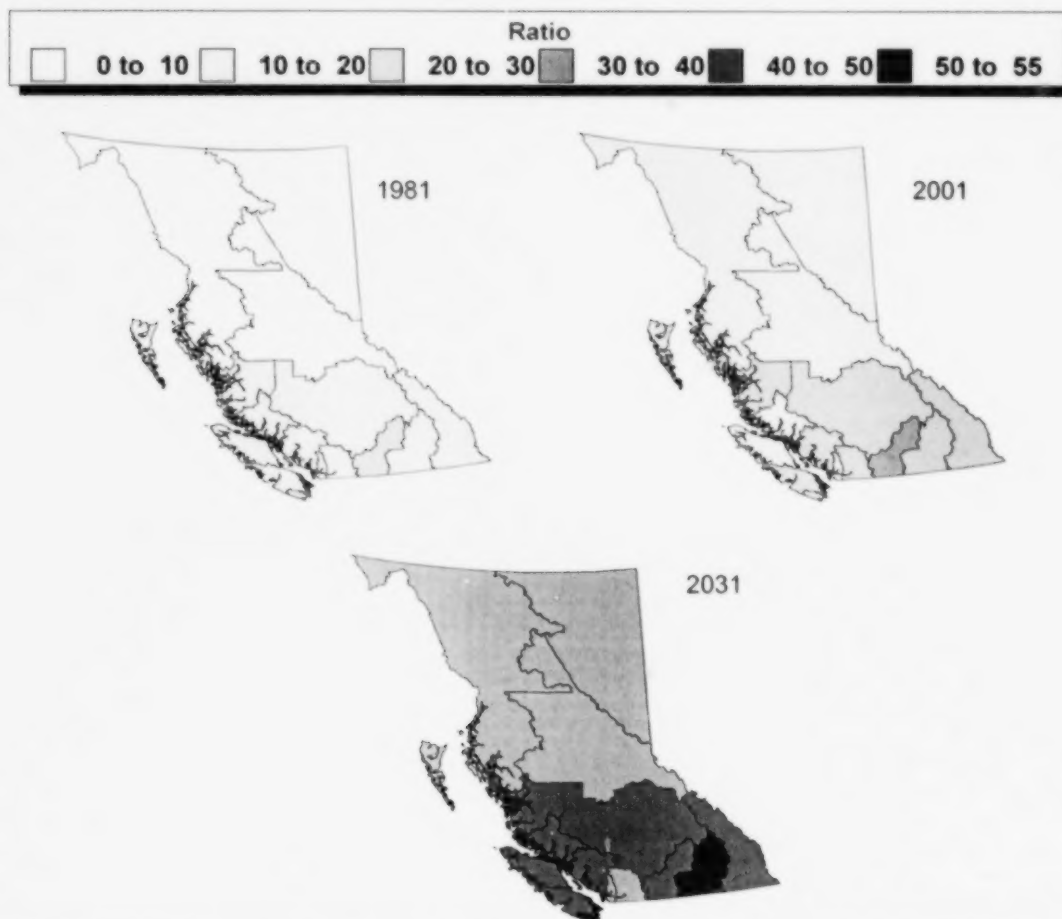
The number of seniors relative to the working age population is increasing

The Elderly Dependency Ratio (EDR) provides an indication of the potential demand the 65+ age group may have on those aged 18-64 in the work force. Low EDR areas have either high levels of work force aged in-migrants or started out with relatively younger population age structures. High EDR areas are regions that attract older migrants, or started out with relatively older population age structures.

	Elderly Dependency Ratio*					
	Estimated			Projected (Proj05/04)		
	1981	2001	2004	2006	2021	2031
HSDA						
Kootenay Boundary	19.0	25.3	25.9	26.7	42.7	53.3
South Vancouver Island	27.2	27.5	26.4	26.5	39.6	50.5
East Kootenay	13.3	21.7	21.4	22.3	36.3	47.6
Central Vancouver Island	17.2	26.6	26.6	29.1	38.5	45.1
Okanagan	24.5	32.6	32.0	32.1	38.1	44.3
Richmond	11.0	16.2	16.8	17.9	34.6	43.8
North Shore/Coast Garibaldi	15.4	20.9	21.1	21.8	33.9	42.3
North Vancouver Island	10.2	19.6	21.0	21.5	32.8	41.9
Thompson Cariboo	10.6	20.9	21.9	22.6	34.1	41.5
Fraser South	14.4	18.2	20.8	21.6	31.0	39.6
British Columbia	16.9	20.4	20.8	21.3	30.7	39.0
Northwest	5.3	11.7	12.6	13.2	25.0	36.8
Fraser North	15.8	16.1	16.2	16.8	26.0	35.3
Northern Interior	5.7	12.3	13.3	13.8	25.0	34.7
Northeast	6.8	11.7	12.1	12.4	21.7	32.6
Fraser East	19.5	22.8	22.2	22.1	26.2	32.1
Vancouver	22.4	17.3	17.1	17.2	23.1	30.6

* Elderly Dependency Ratio = (persons aged 65+) per (100 persons aged 18-64)

The Elderly Dependency Ratio is increasing in all regions





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Email transmission information service from **BC STATS**



also on the Internet at www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca

BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)		% change on one year ago
	Jan 1/06	
BC	4,279.5	1.3
Canada	32,422.9	1.0
GDP and INCOME		% change on one year ago
(BC - at market prices)	2005	
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) (\$ millions)	168,011	6.8
GDP (\$ 1997 millions)	144,028	3.5
GDP (\$ 1997 per Capita)	33,853	2.2
Personal Disposable Income (\$ 1997 per Capita)	20,693	2.5
TRADE (\$ millions, seasonally adjusted)		% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - Apr	3,721	-2.6
Merchandise Exports - Apr	2,774	-5.8
Retail Sales - Mar	4,346	0.7
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX		12-month avg % change
(all items - 1992=100)	Apr '06	
BC	127.1	1.8
Canada	130.0	2.3
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		% change on prev. month
(seasonally adjusted)	May '06	
Labour Force - BC	2,302	0.3
Employed - BC	2,194	0.0
Unemployed - BC	108	5.3
	Apr '06	
Unemployment Rate - BC (percent)	4.7	4.5
Unemployment Rate - Canada (percent)	6.1	6.4
INTEREST RATES (percent)		June 15/05
	Jun 14/06	
Prime Business Rate	6.00	4.25
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	6.35	4.75
- 5 year	6.75	5.70
US/CANADA EXCHANGE RATE		June 15/05
	Jun 14/06	
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn \$	1.1122	1.2440
US \$ (reciprocal of the closing rate)	0.8977	0.7990
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		% change on one year ago
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	May '06	
BC	721.82	3.2
Canada	725.85	4.2

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada
 Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics
 For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

Regional employment projections

BC Stats, with the financial assistance of the Ministry of Advanced Education, developed the Regional Employment Projection Model (REPM), designed to project industrial and occupational employment in regions of the Province of British Columbia.

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/lss/repn.asp

Manufacturers' Directory 2006

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Socio-Economic Profiles & Indices 2005

Updated annually, this body of work provides a coherent and relatively comprehensive measurement of social stressors at sub-provincial areas. Charts, tables and, within the indices, consolidated rankings, make the information broadly accessible.

www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/sep/index.asp

Released this week by BC STATS

- Exports, April 2006
- Earnings & Employment Trends, May 2006
- Quarterly Regional Statistics, 1st Quarter 2006

Next week

- Consumer Price Index, May 2006



